The Thwaites of Crosby Ravensworth

John Thwaites was born in the fifteenth century, and lived at a farm called Gilts in the small village of Crosby Ravensworth, very near to Shap summit on the M6 motorway in Westmorland.

Gilts, which is still standing today

John had several children, including Thomas, who was born in about 1510. He married Christiana Pickering, and had several children including a son Jeffray. On his death in 1564 he left a will with an inventory which have survived. It is not easy to interpret, but a transcription is shown in an appendix.

The family were relatively well to do, with the estate valued at over £65, but nevertheless the inventory shows the relative paucity and value of household goods, with the first item of the inventory comprising 14 pots and pans valued at £2, at a time when the average agricultural wage was 3d per day.

The will of his son Jeffray in 1611 is rather more approachable. It reads –

"In the name of god amen. The ..... of September anno Dm 1611

I Jeffray Thwaite of Gilce within the parrish of Crosbiravenswth, sick in body but in good and perfect remembrance (thanks be given to god) Doe make this my Last Will in manner and forme following. First I give my soull to god, and my body to be buried wthin my parrishe churchyard of crosbiravenswth aforesaid,

And as concerning my worldlie estate, I Doe give and bequeathe fowerteen sheep to John the elder sonne of Thomas Lamb, and three lambs to Thomas his younger sonne. Item I give & bequeathe thre Lambes to Elinor the daughter of Lancillot my brother. Item I give & bequeathe one calf and three lambes to the children of Lancillot Wharton. All the rest of my goods I give to my sonne Thomas Thwaite, and my will is, that he shall finde my wife competent food, raiment, lodginge and all other things requisite for her honest maintenance during her natural life. Witnesses this my last Will Lancillot Thwaite and Thomas Thwaite."

The variety of spelling is normal for the time. Few people could read or write, and this will would almost certainly have been dictated to one of the few in the village who could. There are no books in the inventories of Jeffray or his father.

Subsequent generations of the Thwaites, with varying spellings, family continued to live and work in Crosby Ravensworth.

The church and churchyard of St Lawrence, Crosby Ravensworth, much enlarged in
Victorian times, where several generations of the Thwaites family lie buried

Lancelott Thwaite 1572-1611

Lancelott Thwaite 1599-

James Thwaytes 1635-1677

Lancelott Thwaite 1667-

Lancelott Thwaite 1697-1752

The family had by this time moved to Watermillock on the shores of Ulswater, about 10 miles away, and continued to move around a small area of Westmorland, where Thomas Thwaite 1733-1763 was born.

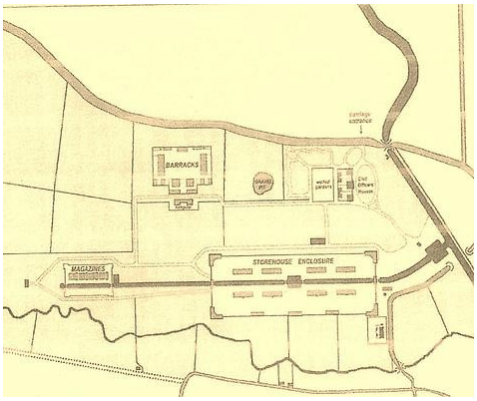
Thomas' son, also Thomas, was born in Patterdale in 1759, and moved to Crossthwaite, near Windermere, where he married Mary Skilbeck. The Skilbeck

name was preserved through many subsequent generations of the family as a second name. They has seven children together there, including their firstborn, John Thwaite, baptised at Crossthwaite on November 17 1785.

John Thwaite left Westmorland to enlist as a private in the Royal Artillery. His discharge record gives his enlistment as 26 August 1805, a tin plate worker age 20 born in Crothwaite (sic), Cumberland.

Between postings overseas in Belgium, Spain and Portugal during the Peninsular War his regiment returned to barracks in Colchester and Norwich. During one of these returns, John met and married his wife Maria, whose father also served in the army. Their first child William Thwaites was born in 1810. William always claimed to have been a cockney, born in London within the sound of Bowbells, but I have not been able to find a baptism record in London, Colchester or Norwich.

By 1814, the regiment had relocated to the newly built barracks at Weedon, near Daventry in Northamptonshire, where the family had eight further children. John was pensioned out of service in 1820 due to visceral obstruction. He was described as height 5'8", brown hair, grey eyes, brown complexion, born Crothwark (sic) Cumberland. Throughout his service his name was spelt Thewaites.

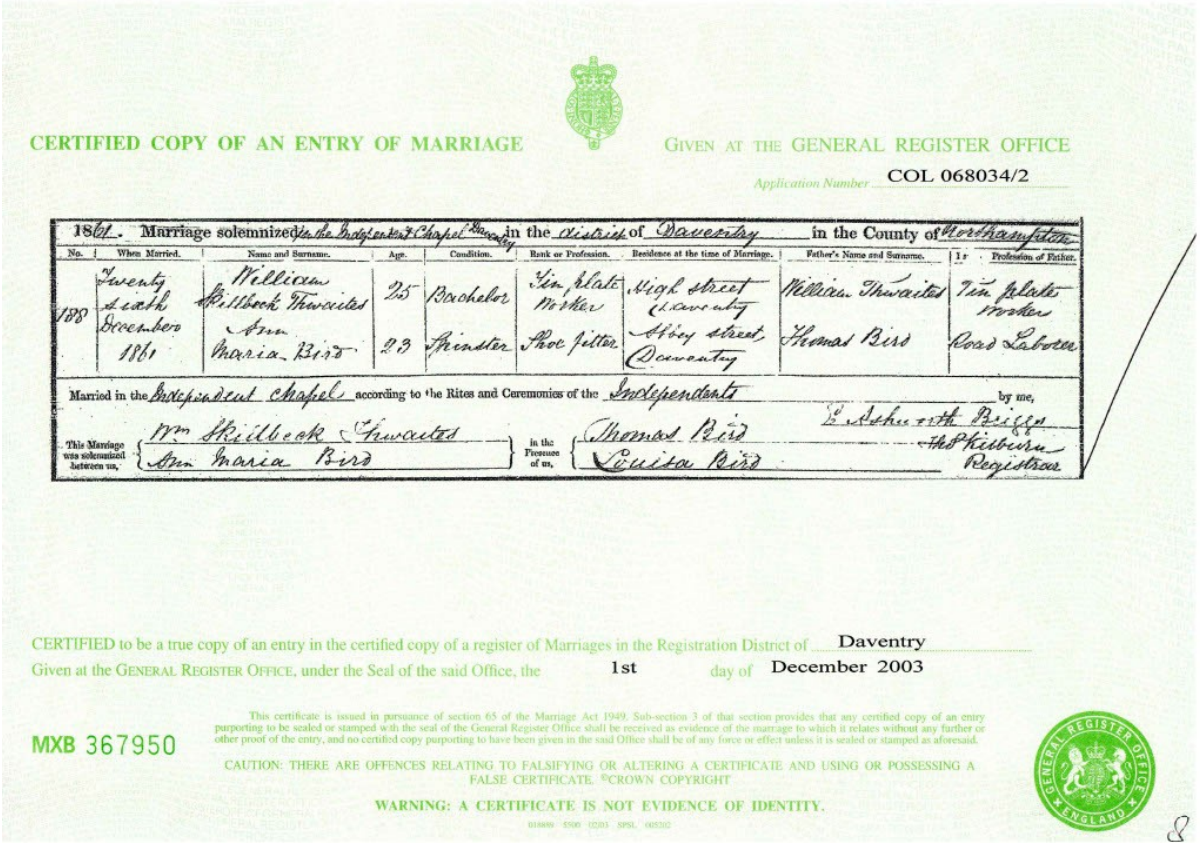


Weedon Barracks as originally constructed, and part of what remains now

John died of mortification in Weedon in 1839. His wife Maria married again and died there in 1855.

Their son William became a tinsmith like his father. He was probably itinerant in his early life, as he married his wife Catherine Hope in Aston, Birmingham in 1832. By 1837, however, they were back in Northamptonshire, living all the rest of their lives in Daventry. They had seven children in total, including William Skillbeck Thwaites, who was the first to be born in Daventry in 1837.

William Skillbeck Thwaites spent all his life as a tinsmith in Daventry. He married Ann Maria Bird there in 1861. They were married in a non-conformist Independent Chapel, rather than the parish church.



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number COL 068034/2

1861. Marriage solemnized in the Independent Chapel Daventry in the District of Daventry in the County of Northampton

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
188	Twenty Sixth December 1861	William Skillbeck Thwaites	25	Bachelor	Tin Plate Worker	High street Daventry	William Thwaites	Tin Plate Worker
		Ann Maria Bird	23	Spinster	Shoe Fitter	Abbey street Daventry	Thomas Bird	Road Laborer

Married in the Independent Chapel according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Independents by me, E Ashworth Briggs Registrar

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Wm Skillbeck Thwaites / Ann Maria Bird

In the Presence of us, Thomas Bird / Louisa Bird

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of Daventry

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 1st day of December 2003

MXB 367950

This certificate is issued in pursuance of section 65 of the Marriage Act 1949. Sub-section 3 of that section provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the marriage to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE. ©CROWN COPYRIGHT

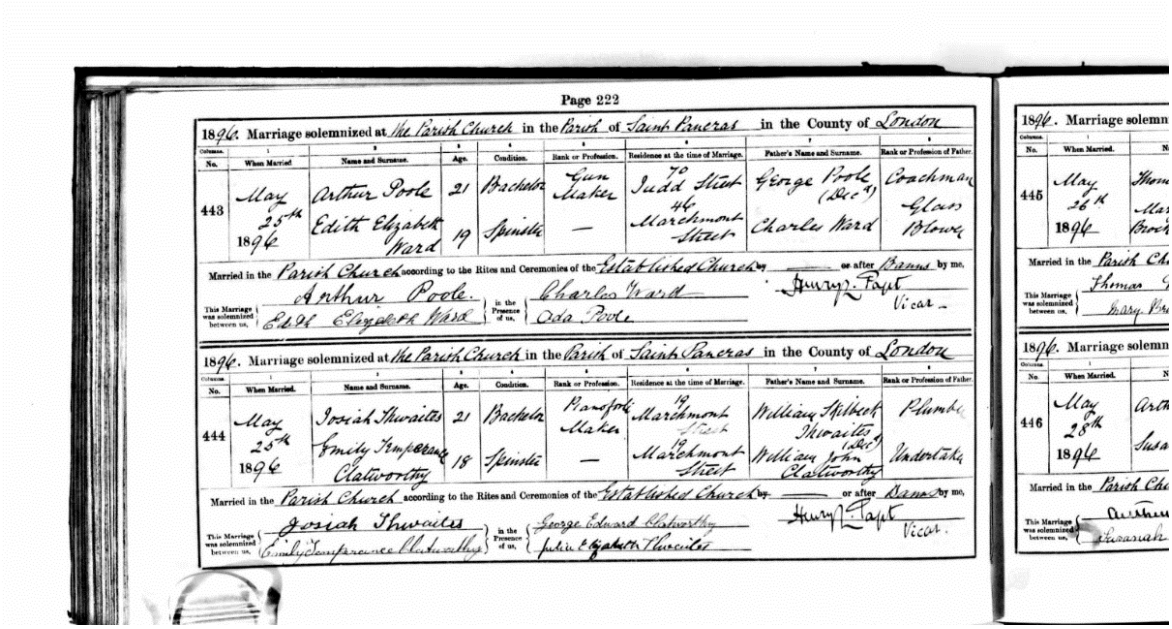
WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE ENGLAND

They had eight children, four of whom took ancestors' surnames as middle names. Two exceptions were John Henry Thwaites, born 2 February 1871, and Josiah, born in 1874.

William Skillbeck Thwaites died in Weedon in 1879 and left assets of less than £200 to his wife. Some time later, his widow moved to St Pancras in London with four of her children, including Josiah, who found work in a piano factory.

Josiah married Emily Clatworthy at St Pancras parish church on 25th May 1896



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1896. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Saint Pancras in the County of London

No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
443	May 25th 1896	Arthur Poole	21	Bachelor	Gun Maker	70 Judd Street	George Poole (Decd)	Coachman
		Edith Elizabeth Ward	19	Spinster	—	46 Marchmont Street	Charles Ward	Glass Blower

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by — or after Banns by me, Henry J. Papt Vicar.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Arthur Poole, Edith Elizabeth Ward in the Presence of us, Charles Ward, Ada Poole

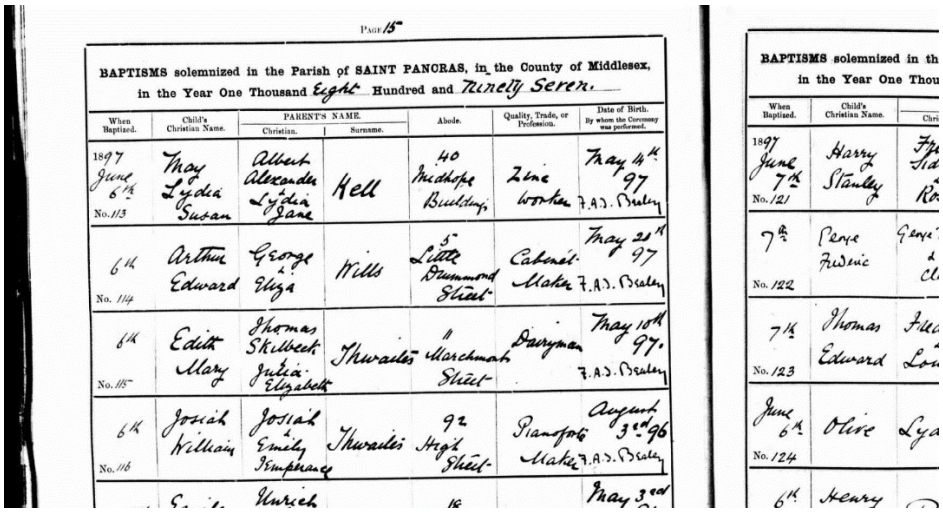
1896. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Saint Pancras in the County of London

No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
444	May 25th 1896	Josiah Thwaites	21	Bachelor	Pianoforte Maker	19 Marchmont Street	William Skilbeck Thwaites (Decd)	Plumber
		Emily Temperance Clatworthy	18	Spinster	—	19 Marchmont Street	William John Clatworthy	Undertaker

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by — or after Banns by me, Henry J. Papt Vicar.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Josiah Thwaites, Emily Temperance Clatworthy in the Presence of us, George Edward Clatworthy, Julia Elizabeth Thwaites

The marriage took place at St Pancras Old church, in Pancras Road Camden, not the newer imposing Victorian church on Euston Road. Their first child, Josiah William Thwaites, was baptised in the same church on 6 June 1897, although he was born within a few months of their marriage.



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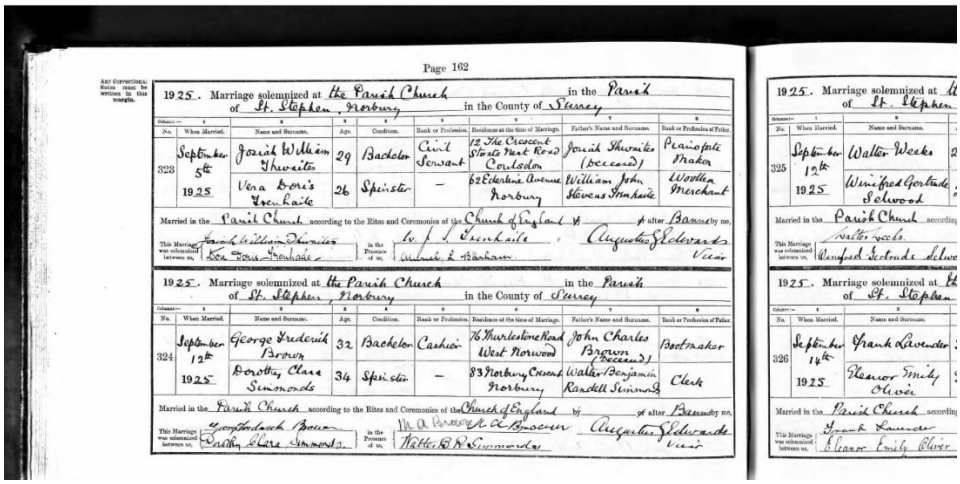
BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of SAINT PANCRAS, in the County of Middlesex, in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Seven.

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name. Christian.	Parent's Name. Surname.	Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	Date of Birth. By whom the Ceremony was performed.
1897 June 6th No. 113	May Lydia Susan	Albert Alexander & Lydia Jane	Kell	40 Midhope Buildings	Zinc Worker	May 4th 97 F.A.J. Bealey
6th No. 114	Arthur Edward	George & Eliza	Wills	5 Little Drummond Street	Cabinet Maker	May 21st 97 F.A.J. Bealey
6th No. 115	Edith Mary	Thomas Skilbeck & Julia Elizabeth	Thwaites	11 Marchmont Street	Dairyman	May 10th 97. F.A.J. Bealey
6th No. 116	Josiah William	Josiah & Emily Temperance	Thwaites	92 High Street	Pianoforte Maker	August 3rd 96 F.A.J. Bealey
	[illegible]	Ulrich		18		May 3rd [illegible]

BAPTISMS solemnized in th[illegible] in the Year One Thou[illegible]

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Chri[illegible]
1897 June 7th No. 121	Harry Stanley	[illegible]
7th No. 122	George Frederic	[illegible]
7th No. 123	Thomas Edward	[illegible]
June 6th No. 124	Olive	[illegible]
6th	Henry	[illegible]

Josiah William Thwaites served in the First World War as a private in the Royal Army Service Corps and was awarded the Victory and British War medals. On 5 September 1925 he married Vera Doris Trenhaile in Norbury parish church. Their daughter Joan was born in 1926.



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Any Correctional Notes must be written in this margin.

1925. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of St. Stephen, Norbury in the County of Surrey

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
323	September 5th 1925	Josiah William Thwaites	29	Bachelor	Civil Servant	12 The Crescent Stoats Nest Road Coulsdon	Josiah Thwaites (Deceased)	Pianoforte Maker
		Vera Doris Trenhaile	26	Spinster	—	62 Ederline Avenue Norbury	William John Stevens Trenhaile	Woollen Merchant

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by ~~or~~ after Banns by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Josiah William Thwaites, Vera Doris Trenhaile, in the Presence of us, W. J. S. Trenhaile, Michael L. Barham, Augustus G. Edwards, Vicar

1925. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of St. Stephen, Norbury in the County of Surrey

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
324	September 12th 1925	George Frederick Brown	32	Bachelor	Cashier	76 Thurlestone Road West Norwood	John Charles Brown (Deceased)	Bootmaker
		Dorothy Clara Simmonds	34	Spinster	—	83 Norbury Crescent Norbury	Walter Benjamin Randell Simmonds	Clerk

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by ~~or~~ after Banns by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, George Frederick Brown, Dorothy Clara Simmonds, in the Presence of us, M. A. Brown, R. A. Brown, Walter B. R. Simmonds, Augustus G. Edwards, Vicar

1925. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of St. Stephen

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.
325	September 12th 1925	Walter Weeks
		Winifred Gertrude Selwood

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by ~~or~~ after Banns by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Walter Weeks, Winifred Gertrude Selwood, in the Presence of us, Augustus G. Edwards, Vicar

1925. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of St. Stephen

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.
326	September 14th 1925	Frank Lavender
		Eleanor Emily Oliver

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by ~~or~~ after Banns by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Frank Lavender, Eleanor Emily Oliver, in the Presence of us, Augustus G. Edwards, Vicar

Roger Davies

February 2021

APPENDIX

Will of Thomas THWAITES (Gilts) made 29/07/1564 :
[Cumbria Archive Service, Curwen , Kirkby Kendal, 3 , 223]

"In Deo Nomine Amen the year of Lord God 1564 and the 29th day of July witnes yt I Thomas Thwaite of gils within the parish of crosby ravinswath beying in [...] & perfect
memory Do make my testament & last wyll as followethe. First I give my soull to giod allmightie &
to all the blessed company of heavin & my bodie to be buryed within the church yard at Crosby
afforsd gevin yar to all manr of deutyes, wthout lett or impedimet Itm I wyll that James Pykring
my son in law shall have 20 li paid him either in peny or penyworthe at such tyme as he shall come
to any other prfarmet of levin or title for the space & trme of fouer year next after my dethe :
moreover I wyll that the said james his wife & yr children shall have yar lvin upon my farmmold the
licence of ye Lord the term & space of thre yere next next aftr the dait herof if he have not
apprised of some other levin meyne tyme terme & at the end & trme ye said thre yers then the said
James shall quetlye dept & goe from the said farmold out [...] ; Itm I wyll yt the said James
shall have two oxen two kye & two yong noyt like unto other [.....] in concederation & full
satisfaction of iij li. vi s. viij d. & all charges & dettes yt I owe to ye said James at the [
...] the day of readin hereof; Itm I geve & beqth to Anne Moss in discharge of my conscience 20s.
Itm I wyll that Jannet Thwaite my baisse Doghtr shall have 20s. & she to be brought up on against
my farmold [...] if she shall be so content Itm I wyll yt Wyllm Thwaite my sone shall have five
mrks in recompence of his childe porten if he be so content & if not then he shall have yt the wyrth
of his reght Itm I wyll that my eldest sone Jaimes Thwaite shall have my soall title & reght of
all my farmold [.....] yrof & in case he refuse yem then I wyll yt lancelot thwaite my
sone shall have yem & he geve to his brother James afforesaid five marks of money. Itm I wyll that
that the husbandregere shall remayne with him yt hath the farmeold/ if it be
[.....] to Giffray my

sonne then he haith to lancilot then the said Giffray shall geve five mrks to his brothers james &
the said lancelot to be acqtt yrof & then the said Lancelot shall hand the said Geffray fa[rm]old
[h]iretiadm/ the residue of my goods unbeqested my dettes legacies & funerals discharging I geve &
beqethe to Xpana [Christian] my wife/ Janet Thot Lancelot & Roland my childre whom I make trew &
faithfull executors, supvsers hereof Mr lancilot & Mr xpch pykeringe wtnes hereof John Wylson /
James Richeson / James Wylson & Thot Mabson with others.

Inventory made 02/06/1564 :
(the inventory has roman numerals, these have been converted)

"Inventory of goods & Chattals of Thomas thwaite of gils laytly deyced psed by John Wylson, thot malson / James Ashesby & James Wylson the second day of June Ao Dm 1564 .....
segr sied we shall
First 5 brass pottes ; 1 posnet ; 3 caldrens ; 5 panes````
£ 2.01 00
Itm. 5 chargers, 5 pottagers, 7 dublers, 2 baysons, thre sausrs 2 saltes, 3 candle stikes & 1 causying desh 1.05.08
Itm. d we shall beying but (cuffled?caffbed
1.04.00
Itm. 4 alymyres, 1 masfatt, 1 gyl fatt, 2 standes, 1 (saye/suye), 4 chestes, 1 girdle,
1 bradeth, 2 spyttes, 1 aniron, 1 tressele, 1 frying panne, 1 cresset, tonges
1.13.00
It. 2 bottels, 3 arckes, 1 wyd cloth, 11 sackes & 1 old tubb
2.05.00
It. 1 contyrs, 1 old lead, 2 gavelokes, 1 hank, 3 leys, 2 axes, thre wumbles, 1 chests,
9 yokes, 4 vicord tecines, 4 hors colines, 2 shekles, 1 par of
1.10.04
It. two tables, 1 cultr, 1 sokcone cuhayn, 2 wheles wth 4 hype 1 coupe & coupetre, 2
wheils coth hates 0.18.11
weyd gere t. wth other weyd gere
0.17.00

beddynge
Itm. 8 covrlettes, 2 fea bedes, 1 mattres, sexe boxxres &
pelebers, 8 blankettes, 5 happyeinges, 4 guessions & 3 single happyinges
3.11.00

[farming stock]
first 4 stottes, one , 7 stoyttes & 2
4.10.08
It. 6 oxen, 8 kow, 4 calves, 1 bull & 2 maers & one stagg
21.10.00
It. 74 weders, 74 yoos, 45 sheresheipe, 45 lames & 1 suyne
24.10.05
It. woyll 21 stones, 6 spaes of silvr & 4s.9d. in money
5.17.02
It. 13 kezd of corne saved upon the ground and
5.12.00
Itm. Hay 2.13.04

Suma totales

Debito testator
first to Lancilot Thwaite
3.16.07
It. to Jiffray thwaite
woyll sheepe
20.00.00
It. to lancelot thwaite
3 old sheppe & 1 lame
0.04.00
It. to thot Thwaite 2.10.00
It. to ye wyfe of wyllm Gathorne
0.10.00

(The values are of course in pounds shillings and pence)